

March 16, 2000

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. ^{XXI}, No. ⁶

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy S...turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, March 16th, 2000..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..member trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover table during business meeting). Program: <u>Gary Sivertsen</u> will regal us with tales of his recent selling trip to Japan complete with pictures.

UNHAPPY FACE TIME:

This was to have been the month when those of you not planning on renewing your dues would have not received a Newsletter. However, secretary Shirley has gone on a much anticipated trip to Africa and thus could not keep track of who had renewed in the past several weeks. So, to make sure no deserving member, who had paid his/her dues, got left out we are sending The Bellows to everyone for one last month. If you would still like to renew your yearly membership for the low, low cost of \$10 (ten) dollars and not miss out on new book discounts and other club activities...you still have time to send your check to Shirly Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922. Right now there are 69 of you who have not paid for 2000. Hope to see you back!

P.S.P.C.S. SHOW IS COMING:

Our 20th annual Sale, Swap & Show, to be held on April 22, is less than two months away. If you have not ordered a table, or sent in your request for a FREE display table, now is the time to do it. Also, please pick up flyers at the meeting from Ed Frey and get them in to camera stores etc. Any place you can put them where people might see them will be a help. Mike Immel will again be signing people up for door ticket taking duty. For one hour of greeting the eager buying public you get a free early in pass and may also come in during our friday night setup..plus you get free coffee and nummies. What a deal! Be sure to sign up and be part of this most fun club activity. Thank you!

OTHER CAMERA SHOW:

There are two other Northwest camera sales before ours. The first is the Portland Photographers Forum to be held Saturday, March 18th at The Collector's Market 8900 N. Vancouver, Portland, Oregon. Tables are \$35.00 each or two for \$60.00. After that they are \$20.00 each. For information call: (503) 557-9196. This has been a nice show for a number of years.

Siggi is having his spring Camera Show & Swap Meet on Sunday, April 9th at Jericho Hill Centre, 4196 W. 4th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. There are 140 tables at \$30.00 each. Admission is \$3.00 and it runs from 10 am to 4 pm. You may get in at 9 am for \$15.00. If you are under 14 you get in free with a rich adult. For information call Siggi (604) 941-0300. I have heard good things about this show for several years. This could be a fun weekend for you in beautiful Vancouver B.C.

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This Month's Mystery Question :

Thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors for:
(Answer at end of news letter, Ed.)

What early postwar Japanese novelty subminiatures came out marked with three name variations but all have the same camera name emblazoned on a chrome or gold frame?

BACKSIDE INFORMATION

Meeting came to order at 7:34 p.m. 44 members and guests present. Minutes of Jan. meeting were approved as read. Treasurer reported that Show funds are coming in.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Treasurer reported 89 members delinquent on dues but 20 had paid recently so delinquent list is down to 69.

Show Committee reports: Darrel Womack reported well over two hundred of our two hundred and fifty tables are sold. Four thousand announcement post cards are ready for mailing. This 20th year anniversary button will be 3 inches instead of 2 inches. Buttons are ready to go. Ed Frey reported that advertizing is ready to go. He asked members present to take some show flyers to hand out at camera shops etc. Dave Studebaker said door prizes are coming along but if anyone had an idea for one to let him know. Dick Boress reported that our friday night hospitality suite is all set and he has ordered two large 20th anniversary cakes decorated with our 20th anniversary logo to go with the other food.

NEW BUSINESS & PROGRAM:

There was no New Business. In honor of Valentines Day eight members brought their favorite red cameras and showed them. It was a very interesting group of cameras with Ray Kirlin having an entire case of small red cameras that were much admired.

SHOW & TELL, AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Six members had interesting Show and/or Tell. There were several eBay stories. Three items were auctioned for a total of \$57.00. Brandon Bass won the Door Prize of a miniature ceramic-type camera.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. for selling and more nummie munching

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COLUMBIA GORGE CAMERA CLUB GOING TO TRY FIFTH SHOW:

I have just received notice that the Gresham Club is going to hold their fifth Camera Swap Meet on Saturday, June 17th at the Gresham Grange located at 875 NE Division St. in Gresham, Oregon..just to the east of Portland off I-84. Table prices are: one table \$35.00, two tables \$65.00 and all additional tables \$20.00 each. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Early bird gets in at 7:30 for \$10.00. Regular cost is \$4.00. For all their information and table order forms call Krystal White (503) 239-8912.

This Show is put on by some of the nicest people you will ever meet. Unfortunaly they have to hold their Show in a very small building with little parking. There seemed to be little advertizing last year and they had very few buyers. If you would like a weekend in Portland and want to meet some nice people this is the show for you. Ed.

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THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 9 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/3740/>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878

The Man Who Made The Cameras That George Eastman Sold

A Brief Biography of Frank A. Brownell

By Frank Brownell Mehlenbacher

Frank A. Brownell began manufacturing and marketing high quality cameras for professionals and amateurs under the name style "F.A. Brownell Manufacturer" in 1883.

In 1885, George Eastman contracted with Frank A. Brownell to provide the woodworking for the new Eastman-Walker Roll Film Holders. This agreement marked the beginning of a business relationship in which the Brownell Manufacturing Company manufactured all cameras and related photographic apparatus marketed under the Eastman or Kodak label from 1885 to October 1902. During that seventeen-year period Brownell designed and patented many cameras and camera improvements. In excess of sixty distinct camera models were manufactured and hundreds of thousands were produced. On September 27, 1902, George Eastman wrote to George Davidson of Kodak's subsidiary in England that he regarded Frank Brownell as "The Greatest Camera Designer That Ever Lived."

The original Kodak Camera was placed on the market in June 1888. Selling for \$25.00, it was an immediate success and the beginning of very rapid growth for the Eastman Dry Plate and Film Company. The Brownell Manufacturing Company was also on its way to becoming the largest producer of cameras in the world. Over 5,200 of the original models were produced. The first Kodak camera to use paper-backed daylight loading film was the Pocket Kodak. It was a small exquisite camera, easy to load, simple to operate and the first Kodak camera to have a little "Red Window" to view the exposure number printed on the back of the paper-backed film. Selling for \$5.00, it was introduced to the public in July 1895. The camera soon became the most popular and successful Kodak. 100,000 Pocket Kodak cameras were made the first year. A total of 147,000 were manufactured before it was discontinued.

Near the turn of the century, Frank A. Brownell designed a small box camera that could be afforded by the mass public to photograph family events and happy occasions. To keep cost of this new camera affordable, Brownell designed it to be manufactured of inexpensive materials and yet be sufficiently substantial to withstand rough usage. On February 8, 1900, this sturdy, well designed camera, named the "Brownie" and selling for \$1.00, was made available to the public. A month after its introduction more than four hundred Brownie cameras were being shipped each day to dealers. Approximately 245,000 of this 1900 model were sold.

The Brownie camera was named after the colorful "Brownies" series of popular children's books by Palmer Cox that were published in the late 19th century. In November 1892, *The Ladies' Home Journal* published *The Origin Of The Brownies*, an article by Palmer Cox in which he indicated that it is believed "Brownies", originated from an old Scottish tradition or legend. "Brownies" were thought to be good-natured little spirits or goblins of the fairy order. They were all little men who appeared only at night to perform good and helpful deeds or enjoy harmless pranks while weary households slept, never allowing themselves to be seen. Only those privileged few gifted by second sight, principally old women, could catch a glimpse of their goblin guests and provide information regarding their size and color. The small "Brownies" had considerable appeal to children and they made ideal advertising illustrations for packaging and promoting the low cost camera. The Brownie label was used on a large variety of lower priced Kodak Cameras for over seventy years. Through the years at least one Brownie camera could be found in almost every home. Hundreds of thousands were purchased and many family albums were filled with pictures taken by Brownie cameras. Today, dictionaries list the term as "the trademark for a type of inexpensive camera or any inexpensive camera".

Having saved so many memories for so many people, it is only appropriate that we Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Kodak Brownie Camera.

Reprinted from The Photographic Historical Society Newsletter, March 2000. It is used here with much thanks. Ed.

-The Most Expensive Photograph Sold in 1999- was an 1855 picture taken by Gustav LeGrey. Price: \$832,500. LeGrey (1820-1862) was a noted French calotypist who has been credited with suggesting collodian for photographic use. Collodian came into use in the 1850's when it was found that it could be used to make a glass negative from which positive prints could be made on paper. A considerable amount of debate surrounds this era in photographic history and for further details we recommend William Welling's *Photography In America, The Formative Years 1839-1900* Thomas Y Crowell Co. 1978. ISBN 0-690-01451-1

Reprinted from the Cascade Photographic Historical Society's Cascade Panorama, February 2000. It is used with much thanks. Ed.

Who's Winning Those Lots?

by Mike Kessler

And you thought you'd heard it all ...

I've been accused (justly I might add) of occasionally stretching the facts or even exaggerating a wee bit just to add interest to whatever I'm writing, but I was told the other day of something that happened in Merrie Olde London Towne which leaves even me at a loss for words.

Although this is second-hand information, the sources are well known to me and quite reliable, so I'm going to report this as fact. My good friend Paul Tobias called me a few days ago to report on how his bidding went at the recent Christie's auction in London. Paul uses the services of Lionel Hughes, a professional dealer and expert in most things photographic, which includes a thorough examination and description of the pieces to be bid on and the subsequent bidding to one's pre-determined limit. What Lionel reported to Paul is truly mind-boggling. The January 27 sale of "Photographs, Cameras and Photographic Equipment" consisted of 449 lots. According to Lionel, all 449 lots were purchased by the same person. *[I heard the same story from Lionel and two additional well known reliable sources. Both Paul and Lionel belong to CPHS. — Ed.]*

Imagine the scene. Dozens of buyers in the gallery, each bidding frantically and each getting outbid by some mysterious phone bidder. It didn't matter if it was a stereo daguerreotype or a Leica IIIg. Everything went to the same person. Apparently when the audience became aware of the situation, they began to bid up everything to astronomical levels. It didn't matter, they were always outbid. Items were bid up from four to six times their normal levels or even more; for example, a Number 5 Folding Kodak without a lens or shutter, a camera that might bring \$300 here in the U. S. and probably less in England, went for £2,000 or around \$3,200.

What makes it really strange is the choice of this particular auction to buy out. There were numerous lots of uninteresting stereo views, second rate dags and a collection of rather poor cabinet cards which went through a previous auction unsold. There were a ton of Leicas, Nikons and Contaxes as well as Bolex cine cameras, Rolleiflexes and Sinar views. The wood and brass section

was really spotty with only a couple of pretty, brass-bound sliding boxes to elevate an otherwise ordinary selection of typical field cameras. Not even a lowly Nimslo escaped this unknown agent with strange taste and obviously *really deep* pockets.

Apparently someone did something similar at a recent sale of magic lantern material, buying all but ten or so lots to the dismay of that group of buyers as well. Was it the same "someone?"

Lionel estimated that whoever purchased this most recent sale paid out close to two million dollars. Why would anyone do such a thing? I haven't got a clue. I just know it makes me want to round up all my flea market material and send it to be auctioned at Christie's. Of course it would be just my luck that this guy will probably have run out of pocket change.

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Answer: The NEW ROCKET camera had three variations and three manufacturers, including: Rocket Camera Co., Tokyo Seiki Co., and New Rocket. Prices for these cameras range from \$175 to \$400.

